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RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFISS/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NEW DELHI 000288

SIPDIS

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TAGS FREL, PGOV, PTER, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY: "HUGE STAKE" IN SPECIAL  
REPRESENTATIVE HOLBROOKE'S SUCCESS

Classified By: AMB David C. Mulford for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

1. (C) Summary. In a meeting between Indian Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon and Special Representative Richard Holbrooke on February 16, Menon stated that India "has a huge stake" in the Special Representative's success in his new role and promised to support Holbrooke's efforts put forth to achieve a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Afghanistan. Menon cited the numerous times he had worked both publicly and privately with Holbrooke in the past, and said he was very happy to see the Special Representative's mandate (i.e., that it be a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Afghanistan). Turning to Pakistan, Menon observed that the mood there had deteriorated over the past year, saying it had gone from euphoria after the Mumbai terrorist attacks, India had consciously not attempted to take any measures to destabilize Pakistan. Menon noted that India, in the wake of the Mumbai attacks, had consciously not built up troops on the border with Pakistan, as it had following the 2001 elections. He lauded India for the effective contribution it had made to the international community. India has no interest in any specific candidate in Afghan elections, Menon stated, but believes the upcoming election process should not be rushed. Responding to Holbrooke's brief of the Afghanistan policy review currently underway in the USG, Menon said he would consult with his government on the issue. Menon asked if the U.S. was considering including Iran in a Core Group on Afghanistan. Holbrooke referred to his interview with Tolo TV in Kabul, in which he had said that the Pakistani response to India's dossier on the Mumbai terror attacks. Saying that it was cleared this message. MULFORD